

Email not displaying correctly? [View the web version](#)

Sign up for all our e-newsletters at [wabashplaindealer.com](https://wabashplaindealer.com)

---

## This Week in Wabash



---

Hello, Wabash,

Happy Monday. I hope your week is off to a great start. We're in the last weeks of it, I hope, but the heat is still getting the better of me. Today hasn't been so bad, though, and I have started to feel the chill in the air now and again, so I have hope. I noticed that the stores I've visited in the past few days have decided to flip their back-to-school sections to the upcoming spooky season. It's starting to feel real Halloween-ish in the seasonal section is all I'm saying. I'm here for it.

This week I wanted to draw your attention to a story that appeared in Saturday's paper. It's about [an invasive species which only seems to have become more prevalent since it was first spotted in the state last year.](#)

Seen in July in Huntington County, the spotted lanternfly had been initially sighted last year in Switzerland County.



Purdue Extension fellow and professor of entomology Cliff Sadof said this migration poses a significant agricultural risk to wine grape growers and honeybee and walnut tree producers.

Purdue University assistant professor of horticulture crop entomology Elizabeth Long said one of the best defenses that wine grape growers can take against the spotted lanternfly is learning to identify the life stages of the insect and remaining vigilant in inspecting for them.

Brock Harpur, Purdue assistant professor of entomology, said bee-keeping equipment can also provide the perfect spot for spotted lanternflies to lay eggs, allowing the insect to travel around the state.

Harpur said bees make good use of any honeydew they collect, but that isn't desirable. If a colony does collect honeydew, a beekeeper may notice the honey has

a smokey taste and smell and is less sweet than typical honey. The honeydew-tainted product has a darker brown color and a notable aftertaste.

Though the full-grown adults have beautiful coloring and patterns, spotted lanternfly eggs resemble a splash of mud, making them easy to overlook on large vehicles traveling from state to state. Homeowners should, therefore, also remain vigilant in keeping populations in check, Sadof said, as the honeydew secretions from the insect are frequently spread across homes and structures and are extremely difficult to remove when dried.

DNR director of the division of entomology and plant pathology (DEPP) Megan Abraham said people in Wabash County were “most likely” inundated with the gypsy moth last year.

Abraham said that when the spotted lanternfly was found in Indiana for the first time last year in Switzerland County was “the farthest west the insect has been found.”

Abraham said a homeowner in Vevay contacted DNR’s DEPP with a picture that was taken outside his home of a fourth instar, or developmental stage, larvae. Abraham said the site is within two miles of the Ohio River and the Markland Dam.

Abraham said DEPP and USDA are investigating to determine exactly how large the infestation is and where it could have come from, as well as how to limit the spread and eradicate the population.

Abraham said the spotted lanternfly is a planthopper that originated in Asia. It was first discovered in the United States in Pennsylvania in 2014.

Abraham said the adult spotted lanternfly has two sets of wings, and the underwing has a very distinct red color with spots on the outer wings. The fourth instar of the insect is bright red with black and white markings. The egg masses of this invasive insect look like mud and they can be spread by vehicle transport including recreational vehicles, cargo carriers, or truck transport, and freight trains. They can also be spread through trade materials sold in infested areas that are shipped out of state including nursery stock, outdoor furniture and lumber.

Abraham said the spotted lanternfly prefers to feed on tree of heaven or *Ailanthus altissima*, but it has been found on more than 103 species of plant including walnut, oak, maple and various fruit trees.

Anyone that spots signs of the spotted lanternfly should contact DEPP by calling 866-NO EXOTIC, or 866-663-9684, or emailing [DEPP@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:DEPP@dnr.IN.gov).

For more information, visit <https://www.in.gov/dnr/entomology/pests-of-concern/>.

Well, that's all I have for you today. I hope you have a great rest of your week.

Best.

Rob



<https://innpac.com/careers>



[Click here to unsubscribe and manage your email subscriptions.](#)

Wabash Plain Dealer PO Box 379, Wabash, IN 46992-0379